Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Benedict "Ben" John Koske was born on February 20, 1905, at Chicago, Illinois; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, At the age of five, Ben moved with his parents to Chadron, Nebraska, and in 1957, he moved to Hot Springs, South Dakota, and has been a South Dakota resident since that time; and,

Whereas, Ben now resides at Castle Manor in Hot Springs, South Dakota, and will observe his 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives gather to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 20, 2005, as

BENEDICT "BEN" JOHN KOSKE DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all his friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State